

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Interview Summary:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview in the above referenced case and forwarding the Interview Summary dated August 9, 2002. Pursuant to the discussions with the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled claim 8, and submits herewith the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 of Messrs. Takahiro Kimura and Hiroyuki Kato.

Applicant submits that the attached Declaration adequately addresses all of the Examiner's concerns regarding the above referenced application.

Election/Restriction:

Applicant confirms the Examiner's election of Group I, claims 1-3 and 5-18, without traverse.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 2-3 and 11-12 have been objected to, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form, and amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejections set forth below.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are all of the claims that have been examined in the above referenced application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected. Applicant notes that claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-18:

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 10 as shown in the attached Appendix, and submits that these amendments adequately address the Examiner's concerns regarding these claims. Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of the pending claims.

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and are not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1, 7-10, and 13-18:

Claims 1, 7-10 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 01030808 to Maeda et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,029,627 to Ochiai. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that Maeda discloses and teaches using aromatic polyamide fiber cords in a carcass ply, whereas the present invention uses steel cords in a carcass ply. See claim 1. Therefore, Maeda employs, and teaches the use of, an entirely different kind of cord in a carcass ply.

Further, Applicant notes that the Maeda disclosure is silent with respect to the cord material used in the bead reinforcing layer 7. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Maeda fails to disclose, teach or suggest "at least one rubberized carcass ply containing steel cord(s) [], in which the carcass ply has a wound portion which is wound around the bead core

from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof and [the] wound portion has a terminal end in the vicinity of a main body of the carcass ply at an outer peripheral position of the bead core, wherein at least one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged in the bead portion.” *See* claim 1. Stated differently, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the combination of the steel cord carcass ply having a wind contact part and a steel cord bead reinforcing layer, as set forth in claim 1.

To aid in the Examiner’s understanding of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits herewith a partial English translation of Maeda.

Additionally, Applicant notes that although Ochiai appears to disclose using steel cords in a carcass ply 4 and a bead reinforcing layer 5, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion regarding the formation of a wind contact part of the carcass ply, of any kind, let alone disclosing, teaching or suggestion the wound portion of the present invention. *See* claim 1. Applicant further notes that, Ochiai is directed to improving the separation on the inner side of the bead portion in the widthwise direction (the main portion B1 of the carcass and the inner portion C1 of the reinforcing layer). *See* Ochiai, col. 1, lines 36-49 and Figures 3-4. However, the present invention is directed to preventing the fatigue breakage on the outer side of the bead portion in the widthwise direction located at the turnup end (i.e. wind contact art end) of the carcass ply. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Ochiai are entirely different than those of the present invention in their technical approach, construction and effects. As such, Applicant notes that in addition to failing to cure the deficient teachings of Maeda, Ochiai’s disclosure is so different, than both that in Maeda and the present invention, that one of

ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious, or feasible, to combine the teachings of Ochiai with Maeda.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to claim 1, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of this claim. Further, as claims 7, 9-10 and 13-18 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 5 and 6:

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Ochiai, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,261,476 to Kobayashi. However, since these claims depend on claim 1, and because Kobayashi fails to cure the deficient teachings of Maeda and Ochiai, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

Conclusion:

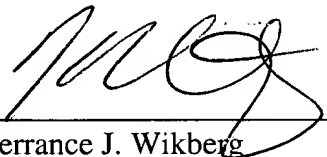
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/606,939

Our Ref.: Q59907
Art Unit: 1733

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: January 30, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) In a pneumatic tire comprising a tread portion, a pair of sidewall portions and a pair of bead portions and a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead cores embedded in the respective bead portions and comprised of at least one rubberized carcass ply containing steel cord(s) therein, in which the carcass ply has a wound portion which is wound around the bead core from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof and said wound portion has a terminal end in the vicinity of a main body of the carcass ply ~~other than the wound portion thereof~~ at an outer peripheral position of the bead core, wherein at least one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged in the bead portion, and a terminal end of a reinforcing layer located outside in a widthwise direction of the tire is arranged away from the terminal end of the carcass ply.

6. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 5, wherein the steel cords are arranged in the at least one steel cord reinforcing layer at a distance between an outer diameter of each of at least two adjacent cords is cord ends of 1.00 - 1.50 mm in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the cord.

10. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 9, wherein the organic fiber cords constituting the at least one organic fiber chafer are arranged at a cord angle of 15-75° with respect to an arranging direction of the steel cords constituting the at least one steel cord reinforcing layer.